

REMARKS

A telephone interview was conducted between Examiner Tsidulko and the undersigned on October 6, 2004. Applicant's Attorney would like to thank Examiner Tsidulko for his helpful comments and that this Amendment is being filed in view thereof.

No amendments have been made to the claims. Claims 2-6, 18, 24, 27, and 28 are indicated as having allowable subject matter. Please note that Claim 28 is an independent claim and appears that it should be identified as allowed. During the interview, the Examiner confirmed that Claim 28 should have been identified as allowed.

The previous Office Action, mailed from the Patent Office on April 14, 2004, was identified as a final rejection. The present Office Action, dated August 9, 2004, in response to the Amendment after Final mailed to the Patent Office on July 9, 2004 was identified as non-final. By such action, Applicant understands that the finality of the rejection has been withdrawn. Also during the interview, the Examiner confirmed that the present Office Action, dated August 9, 2004, is a non-final action.

Rejection of Claims 1, 7, 8, 19, 20, 23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 7, 8, 19, 20, 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0145860 A1, published October 10, 2002 naming Lee as an inventor (hereinafter "Lee"). The Examiner states that a light guide plate in Lee has first and second sides. The first side includes a series of optical elements and the second side includes a series of plateaus for enhancing the brightness of the light and that the base planes and plateaus are not coplanar with the base planes.

Claims 1 and 19 state that the plateaus are substantially parallel but not coplanar with the base planes. In Claim 19, the plateaus are substantially parallel with the base planes. Lee does not disclose plateaus that are substantially parallel but not coplanar with the base planes. Instead, Lee discloses recesses 721, which are indentations and come to a point within the light guide plate. Recesses 721 are pyramid shaped hollow figures with a polygonal base and triangular faces that meet at a common point, such as a rectangular base and four triangular faces culminating in a single apex. The recesses 721 are for enhancing the brightness of the light and are formed in various shapes, such as a triangular horn shape, a tetragonal horn shape, a

pentagonal horn shape, a hexagonal horn shape and the like. The horn shape refers to the shape of the opening on the bottom surface of the light guide plate 720 (paragraph 52). They include triangular (three-sided), tetragonal (four-sided), pentagonal (five-sided), and hexagonal (six-sided). Figure 2 specifically shows tetragonal (four-sided) openings in limited sections of the bottom surface. There are no plateaus disclosed or suggested in Lee.

The application of a grooved structure, as claimed by Applicant, to the smooth surface of the linear prism films improves significantly the light directing capability of the films by increasing light throughout at the grooved structure surface and prism interface and redirecting wide incident angle light rays while reducing wet out. The base planes and plateaus are of such sizes to reduce the visibility of Newton's rings and moiré fringes while minimizing surface to surface contact with films or the peaks of prisms, thereby reducing wet out. There is no disclosure or suggestion by Lee thereof that such a linear prism film would result.

Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a light directing structure having a first directing film and a second directing film where each have a surface having a plurality of stepped plateaus and a plurality of base planes wherein the plateaus have an elevation different than the base plane and that the plateau and base planes are substantially parallel to each other and oriented in parallel relative to the peaks of the linear prisms. There is no disclosure or suggestion of such a limitation in Lee.

Therefore, the claims are not anticipated by Lee.

Rejection of Claims 9-15, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 9-15, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lee in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/015793 A1, published on August 8, 2002 and naming Oda *et al.* as inventors (hereinafter "Oda").

There is no suggestion to combine the two references to result in a film with plateaus that are substantially parallel but are not coplanar with the base planes in combination with triangular linear prisms with a particular top angle.

Further, the combination of Lee and Oda still lacks disclosure or suggestion of a surface having a plurality of stepped plateaus and a plurality of base planes wherein the plateaus have an

elevation different than the base plane and that the plateau and base planes are substantially parallel to each other.

Therefore, the claims are not obvious in view of Lee and Oda alone or in combination thereof.

Rejection of Claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee and Oda as applied to Claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,396,350, issued to Beeson *et al.* (hereinafter "Beeson").

Beeson *et al.* do not remedy the deficiencies of Lee and Oda. Beeson *et al.* are related to creating a planar light source from tubular or spot sources. The presently claimed invention is directed to redirecting light that exits a planar waveguide. There is no disclosure or suggestion in any of the references to a series of stepped plateaus and to a series of base planes that run along a first axis wherein the plateaus and base planes alternate wherein the linear optical elements on the opposite side are pitched at regular intervals or include lenticular linear elements.

Further, the combination of Lee, Oda, and Beeson still lacks disclosure or suggestion of a surface having a plurality of stepped plateaus and a plurality of base planes wherein the plateaus have an elevation different than the base plane and that the plateau and base planes are substantially parallel to each other.

Therefore, the claims are not obvious in view of Lee, Oda, and Beeson, alone or in combination thereof.

Rejection of Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lee.

There is no suggestion in Lee to result in a film with plateaus that are substantially parallel but are not coplanar with the base planes in combination with triangular linear prisms with a particular top angle.

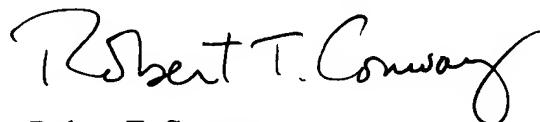
Further, Lee still lacks disclosure or suggestion of a surface having a plurality of stepped plateaus and a plurality of base planes wherein the plateaus have an elevation different than the base plane and that the plateau and base planes are substantially parallel to each other.

Therefore, the claim is not obvious in view of Lee.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH &
REYNOLDS, P.C.



Robert T. Conway
Registration No. 33,859
Telephone (978) 341-0036
Facsimile (978) 341-0136

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Concord, Massachusetts 01742-9133